



Essential Evangelization

Charity Evangelization

So often today with all of life's other distractions, we can get a bit too comfortable in our faith life. We can be lulled into thinking that we are doing very well with God by avoiding the major mortal sins. We strive to stay away from the traditional seven deadly sins of "commission": Wrath, Greed, Sloth, Pride, Lust, Envy, and Gluttony. We may also even hear people "boast" that they don't need the Sacrament of Reconciliation because they really don't sin. That can be a problem! And a very one dimensional view of what God asks of us.

What about charity? In today's three readings we hear a common theme that has to do with "charity evangelization." We hear from the prophet Isaiah, who is speaking for the Lord, on how we need to share our bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked, and to not turn our backs on our own. And in St. Paul's second reading, and his proclamation to his beloved Corinthians whom he tried to help and evangelize, and how he simply, "resolved to know nothing while I was with you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

And finally in the Gospel of today, we hear Jesus give us an even deeper and more extensive meaning of what it is to practice charity evangelization. By example, Jesus would most often heal or feed or just listen before he gave the life saving punch line message. He tells us that we need to be more like salt and light - to everyone we meet! We shouldn't get too comfortable or hunkered down in our neat and tidy "sinless" bushel basket. We need to "get out there" and be Christ for others! We need to leave people better off for having met us. We need to be life giving! In our work lives, in our family, in our neighborhood and in our friendships, how are we practicing charity evangelization?

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Mat 5: 16.

*This is one of a series of articles on
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